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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

In-depth evaluation of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

1. At its 8th and 9th meetings, held on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development (E/AC.51/1994/4 and Corr.1).

Discussion

2. The Committee was informed that the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had had the progress report before it at its session held from 26 April to 5 May 1994, along with other recent reports concerning the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; the Conference had adopted a general resolution on those concerns, resolution 770 (XXIX), citing the progress report in a preambular paragraph.

3. The majority of delegations welcomed the willingness of UNDP to provide assistance to programme 45, whose implementation they considered stymied for lack of resources. They also hoped that other institutions of the United Nations system would follow suit. Other delegations reiterated the importance

of maintaining zero growth level within United Nations agencies' budgets. The Committee recognized the need further to encourage the international community to promote programme 45.

4. A number of delegations expressed surprise that no mention was made of the contributions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the specialized agencies. A number of delegations considered that several of the recommendations were within the prerogatives of the Secretary-General to implement and need not have been presented to CPC.

5. In the course of the debate, delegations made observations on the following recommendations in the report:

(a) Recommendation 2. A number of delegations questioned the value of a formal revision to the United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development;

(b) Recommendation 3. One delegation considered that the matter could best be dealt with at one of the future coordination segments of the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Recommendation 4. A number of delegations stated that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) should also be consulted and that a great deal of analytical work on African debt had been done. One delegation considered that UNCTAD should be added to the list of organizations to be consulted. Another delegation stated CPC was not the forum in which to raise those issues;

(d) Recommendation 7. A number of delegations expressed deep concern at the present resource situation and its negative effect on the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. A number of delegations considered that the recommendation had little practical value if the review would conclude that the level of resources would be inadequate. Some delegations considered that other United Nations organizations, in addition to UNDP, should also provide financial support to the programme. Some delegations regretted that the resources of the United Nations system were not being devoted in sufficient levels to the programmes related to African development, being concentrated in other priority areas of the medium-term plan. Some delegations stressed the need for overcoming overlapping and duplication in the United Nations system in order to release additional resources necessary for the implementation of programme 45;

(e) Recommendation 8. Some delegations expressed doubts about requesting JIU to conduct the study and considered that other channels, such as joint ACC-CPC meeting, should be explored. Some delegations considered it might be too early to undertake such a study;

(f) Recommendation 9. Some delegations proposed that the report should also go to the Steering Committee of OAU.

Recommendations

6. The Committee commended the special effort the Secretariat had put into preparing the report.

7. The Committee endorsed the recommendations in the progress report subject to the above-mentioned considerations.